

Pastor's Pen

Your happy place!

"Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory," 1 Peter 1:8

If I was to ask you where is your happy place how would you respond? Is it the beach, river, ballfield, with family, or alone reading a book? So many of us spend our time and energy trying to get to our happy place. We chase happiness, hoping one day that every minute of the day will be in our happy place, wherever that may be.

The truth for Christians is that our happy place should come from within ourselves and not from our circumstances. Nowhere in Scripture will you find our happiness tied to the things of this world. This is what Jesus had to say about this world, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid....I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* (John 14:27, 16:33).

The problem with too many Christians is that they look for their joy, their happy place, from the things of this world. Have you ever thought, "If I could only spend all my time lying on the beach, I would be happy, then my life would be perfect"? The truth is that Scripture tells us that our joy, our happiness does not come from the things of this world but comes from our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit allows us to have joy in this life despite our circumstances. So we can say like Paul,

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Romans 5:1-5

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"God's purpose for my life was that I have a passion for God's glory and that I have a passion for my joy in that glory, and that these two are one passion."
-Johnathan Edwards

Grace Gems

Avoiding Spiritual Delusion- John MacArthur

"Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves" (James 1:22).

It's a delusion to think you can hear God's Word, then disobey it without cost.

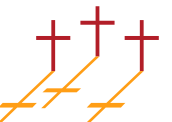
Matthew 7:21-23 records the tragic results of spiritual delusion. Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

Jesus made a clear distinction between those who merely claim to be Christians and those who truly are. The difference is, true believers do the will of the Father. In the words of James, they are doers of the Word, not merely hearers who delude themselves.

"Hearers" in James 1:22 translates a Greek word that speaks of auditing a class. Auditing students attend class and listen to the instructor but don't do any work. Consequently, they don't receive credit for the course. The phrase "delude themselves" speaks of being victimized by one's own faulty reasoning.

People who listen to God's Word but never obey it are spiritual auditors who delude themselves by thinking that hearing the Word is all God requires of them. Unfortunately, many churches are full of such people. They attend services and hear the sermons but their lives never seem to change. They're content to hear the Word but never apply it. Like those whom Jesus condemned in Matthew 7, they've chosen religious activities over true faith in Christ.

How tragic to think you're saved, only to hear, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (Matt. 7:23). That will never happen if you're a doer of the Word.



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

New Testament
Sunday School
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's
Every other Thursday @ 7PM
@ Patrick's & Cox's



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and forgot to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @ 6:30PM
Youth Study



Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @ 10:30AM

Giving from service on 06/06/2021

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| General Offering | 8,685.60 |
| Building Fund | 2,207.60 |
| Uganda | 100.00 |
| Total | \$10,993.20 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Attendance | 165 |
| Sunday School | 113 |
| Online | 20 |

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest
Baptist Church
go • gather • grow • go

ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

June 13, 2021

